

Message Text

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13-12

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3647

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONGKONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 1358

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER ON SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS SUMMARIES HERE OF AN INTERVIEW GRANTED BY MRS GANDHI TO LE FIGARO JANUARY 23, THE PRIME MINISTER IDENTIFIED "CHINA'S STRATEGY AND HOW THEY (SIC) VIEW THE WORLD", NOT THE INDO-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION TREATY, AS THE PRINCIPLE OBSTACLE TO IMPROVED SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS. NOTHING THAT THE THE 1971 TREATY CONTAINS A CLAUSE ACKNOWLEDGING INDIA'S NON-ALIGNMENT, THE PRIME MINISTER ASSERTED THAT "WE WILL REMAIN A NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY AND THIS FRIENDSHIP (WITH THE USSR) WILL NOT COME IN THE WAY OF OUR RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES". MOREOVER, "THEY (THE SOVIETS) HAVE NEVER SAID THAT WE SHOULD NOT BE FRIENDS WITH CHINA".

2.I

ASKED ABOUT THE OCTOBER 20 INCIDENT IN WHICH FOUR
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INDIAN BORDERGUARDS WERE KILLED, MRS GANDHI COMMENTED

AS FOLLOWS: "THE BORDER INCIDENT IS NOT THE ONLY SETBACK. THE MAJOR SETBACK IS THE CONSTANT PRO-PAGANDA WHICH THEY DO AGAINST INDIA. ...THEY ALSO PRESSURIZE SOME OF OUR NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES NOT TO BE SO FRIENDLY TO INDIA". THE PRIME MINISTER SPECIFICALLY ACCUSED THE PRC OF ENCOURAGING INSURGENCY IN BURMA AND "SOME OF OUR OWN TRIBAL PEOPLE, GIVING THEM TRAINING AND SO ON."

3. FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN FORMALLY PRESENTED INDIA'S VIEWS ON THE PRC AT A CLOSED MEETING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE JANUARY 27. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, CHAVAN SAID THE GOI HAS CONCLUDED THE DEATH OF CHOU EN-LAI WILL NOT MEAN ANY CHANGE IN CHINESE POLICY TOWARDS INDIA. IN CHAVAN'S VIEW A SHIFT OF PRC ATTITUDES COULD NOT BE EXPECTED BECAUSE THE CURRENT CHINESE LEADERSHIP HAD NOT SUDDENLY ACCEDED TO POWER BUT EMERGED GRADUALLY DURING THE PERIOD OF CHOU'S ILLNESS.
SAXBE

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